

United States Bankruptcy Court
For the District of Rhode Island

Minutes of September 14, 2000 Meeting of the Attorney Advisory Committee

The second meeting of the Bankruptcy Court's Attorney Advisory Committee was held at the Clerk's office on Thursday, September 14, 2000 at 3:30pm.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance:

Pat Antonelli
Mark Buckley
Lisa Geremia
Peter J. Furness
Chris Lefebvre
Tom Quinn
Charlie Pisaturo
John Rao

Court Personnel:
Susan Thurston
Michelle Torres
Joe Wilkicki

Absent: Dave Reilly, Bill Hague, Sheryl Serreze

Meeting Discussion:

The meeting was called to order by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court. Following, the court personnel discussed some of the recent changes made to the court's website. It was mentioned that the automation department has begun working on a new design for the website. In addition, the automation department recently began operating the court opinion's search engine and the daily hearing's calendar. Web pacer was discussed briefly and the committee was notified that the program/connection is still under development.

Next, the committee discussed electronic bankruptcy noticing (EBN). The court kicked off this service in July of this year. The program allows attorneys and businesses to receive notices from the court by fax or email format, instead of regular mail. The court has chosen the bankruptcy noticing center (BNC) to sign-up all interested in this service. Therefore, in order to sign-up for this service, attorneys and businesses must download (from www.ebnuscourts.com) or obtain the sign-up documents from the court and send them to the BNC. EBN provides noticing services in a convenient format to recipients,

while at the same time reducing the delivery time and the postage costs associated with the US mail.

Joe Wilkicki demonstrated the new electronic digital recording system to the committee, where members were allowed to witness first hand the ease and convenience of recording hearings and proceedings electronically in the courtroom. Joe played sample hearings for the committee, and explained the availability of ordering transcripts instantly (via email) or recordings from the court. The committee suggested that the ECRO remind the attorneys to state their names for the record for identification purposes. A quick demonstration of the “in development” online audio access was given as well. This program will allow users to listen to the actual record of court hearings and proceedings. The committee was informed that the automation department will be working on adding windows media player (the program that allows users to play audio files) to the court’s website for downloading purposes for the public and bar’s convenience.

Court personnel reviewed autocop features and a new requirement from the court in regards to the matrix on disks. The local rules are being amended to require that all creditor names and addresses be filed on disk as opposed to on hard copy. The instructions for doing this will be included as Amended R.I. Bankr. Form A. The clerk also discussed adding an antivirus program to the computers in the public area in order to assist pro se debtors with this requirement.

The committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the proposed rule, form and appendix changes due for comment October 30-November 30. Susan reviewed and discussed changes to the following:

- Local Bankruptcy Rule 1002-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 1009-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-3 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 5077-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 7016-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 7026-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Rule 9036-1 (amended)

Appendix VIII (new)

- Local Bankruptcy Form A (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Form K.2 (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Form U (amended)
- Local Bankruptcy Form V (amended)

The following agenda item was tabled for discussion at the next attorney advisory meeting, which is scheduled **for December 14, 2000 at 3:30** in the Clerk’s office conference room:

◆ *Legal education*

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.